

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 1, Folder 12

January 14, 1943
- March 12, 1943

Frame: 0380

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

January 14, 1943

Dear Biggs:

Just a moment of your time. Some months ago I was told by Captain Baughman and by Captain Binford that Chief Gunnersmate Robert M. Phelps, U.S.N.R. of the U.S.S. St. Augustine, had been made an ensign by his board. To date, I understand from Phelps' parents, that he has received no commission. I should appreciate some information on this case.

Likewise, I should appreciate some information if you have it, concerning the possible advancement of Lieutenant Commander James P. Lewis, (MC), U.S.N.R. Doctor Lewis was informed, unofficially it is true, that he had been made a Commander in the Medical Corps. All other officers of his time up here in Newport seem to have received their advancement and the Doctor is somewhat puzzled about himself. Could you inform me on this matter?

I hope that I am not too much of a damned nuisance - I know that you are very busy indeed, but I have no one to turn to but you, the head man.

Best regards, as always,

R. W. Bates.

Captain B.B. Biggs, U.S.N.,
Office of Naval Personnel,
Arlington, Va.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

January 16, 1943

Dear John:

The other day I was down in Washington and dropped in to see you, but unfortunately, you were out and as I was only in Washington one day, I had to forego the pleasure of seeing you.

What I am writing to you about is to congratulate you upon your new command. Of course, you always were one of the biggest fellows in the Class in all ways, but particularly physically, so it is only right that you should have command of our biggest ship. I think that it is swell.

I also was pleased to note that Chick had got command of Bally-Hoo-Massachusetts. He is a fine guy and I know will do well.

The loss of Paul Bastedo as Secretary of the War College is badly felt by all of us, and especially by me, as we both have been very friendly for many years. He is a very fine fellow and I know was quite gratified with his assignment to London. Every one here hopes that the "big boss" will see fit to give him the broad stripe within the not too distant future. He would make a very fine appearing Rear Admiral.

Outside of the above, I have nothing further to say, despite Ted Breed's crack about my speaking for one hour and fifty-seven minutes at Harrisburg.

Best regards to you, as always, and here's hoping I get to sea one of these days myself.

Sincerely yours,

Captain John McCrea, U.S.N.,
Naval Aide to The President,
Navy Department, Washington, D.C.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

January 16, 1943

Dear Chick:

This is merely a note to congratulate you on your beautiful assignment. It was only proper that an Officer of the Class of 1915 should have got command of that ship, and I don't suppose that any one deserves it more than you.

I told your beloved Rosalie over the 'phone that you would probably be an Admiral, that this recognition a year or more before your time looked very favorable. To this, your Rosebud replied that she did not care anything about you being an Admiral, that all she wanted was her Captain Chick and have him home.

Best regards, as always, and congratulations again. As ever, your old pal,

Captain R.O. Glover, U.S.N.,
U.S.S. Massachusetts,
c/o Postmaster,
New York, N.Y.

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Navy Department
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
Washington, D. C.

January 19, 1943

Dear Captain:

In your letter of January 14th you inquired about a Chief Gunners Mate Robert M. Phelps, U.S.N.R., and Lieutenant Commander James P. Lewis, (MC), U.S.N.R. The appointment of Phelps is contained in the January 15th bulletin of circular letters and he should receive this notice within the next week.

Lieutenant Commander Lewis was selected as eligible for promotion and at that time was not considered to be holding a Commander's billet. I am informed by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery that they are ordering him to a Commander billet and will recommend his promotion at the same time. He will receive the same date of rank he would have received had he been appointed immediately.

I hope this information will answer your purpose.

Sincerely yours,

Captain R. W. Bates, U.S. Navy,
Naval War College,
Newport, Rhode Island.

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Jan. 23, 1943

Capt. W.J.C. Agnew (MC), USN
Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Navy Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

I suppose a letter from me is similar to the "resurrection of Lazarus," but when people want something they usually turn to the person they feel most competent and most willing to assist them.

This morning I was at the Naval Hospital here in Newport having my rhinitis treated, and the doctors there grabbed on me, as did several of the nurses, and said that there was rumor that one of their number, Mary Katherine Behan, MNC, was to be ordered to Argentina. They said that they knew that Miss Behan did not desire that duty because she has difficulty in especially cold weather, and they entreated me if I knew anyone in power to write to him about this. So I am doing so.

I understand that Miss Behan put in for foreign duty and is anxious for that duty. It is my suggestion, therefore, that if you can, use your good offices to keep her out of a cold climate such as Argentina and send her to some warmer place like North Africa. I have seen Miss Behan before this as she used to be the nurse in the Ear, Nose and Throat Section, and she is a very attractive woman -- I would judge somewhere around 30 years of age.

I do not like to bother you about a matter of this kind, and I may be entirely out of order, but it seemed to me that if anybody could do anything about this, you would be the fellow. I understand that no orders have been issued, or at least they didn't think they have been issued, and this may be only one of those rumors.

If you are interested in my whereabouts, I can tell you that I am Chief of Strategy on the Staff of the War College here. We have a large class of both Reserves and Regular officers, including about thirteen Lieutenant Colonels or higher in the Army. The work is highly interesting, but, needless to say, I also am anxious to get to sea.

I hear that you are doing a wonderful job down there and that everyone is very gratified that you have the Personnel Desk.

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It is too bad that we have to lose Captain Beillo up here. He has made many friends in the Civilian population as well as in the Navy, and he certainly will be missed. However he has told me he realizes that his seniority deprives him of the happiness of commanding a hospital. He is a great guy.

There is a Lieutenant Commander in this College named Francis J. Bon who seems to know you very well. I drive him to College in the morning every day, and this morning he gave me quite a speech about playing poker with you, and about how he had never seen anybody who was more interested in helping his fellows than you were. I think that is a great tribute.

Best regards, as always, your old friend

RWB:REE

R. W. Bates

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

January 30, 1943

Dear Bill:

Thank you very much for your prompt reply to my query regarding Miss Mary Behan (N.N.C.). It was just like you to act as you did and I am appreciative.

I have no feeling about the refusal in this case. Frankly, it was my understanding that no orders had been issued as yet but that all that had been received here was a strong rumor.

The agitation about Miss Behan's detachment was it appears, based on two factors, viz: one, that she is somewhat allergic to cold - that is, she dislikes it intensely for some strange reason - the other, and probably the most important, was the fact that she belonged to a unit from a Postgraduate Hospital, all of whom had hoped to be together, but it is evidently being broken up. I would judge that the attitude of the doctors and nurses about Miss Behan was based on an attempt to try to keep their unit and friends together.

Best regards to you as always, and I will keep out of this in the future.

As ever, your old friend,

Captain W.J.C. Agneu, (MC), U.S.N.,
Bureau of Medicine & Surgery,
Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

February 6, 1943

Dear Luehman:

I can assure you that I was delighted to receive a letter from you and to note the important work which you are assigned to.

I have taken up the matter of your map with the Chief of Staff and I have been advised as follows - "to tell Colonel Luehman to write a letter to the War College asking for this chart." The reason for this is that these charts are issued by the Hydrographic Office only when the request has been approved by the War College. Thus, if you will submit an official request to the War College, the request will be forwarded to the Hydrographic Office approved.

I hope that this will satisfy you.

I am sorry that you have not as yet had a chance to become associated with Joint Army and Navy Training because I feel that you are well qualified for this work from a Navy viewpoint. I have been wondering whether you have used your S.M.D. in the work you are in now. For example, in working out a training program, the use of S.M.D. could be quite effective. S.M.D. is not solely for use with the Naval Service, but can be used anywhere in any walk of life whatsoever. Of course, in saying this to you, I am merely repeating what you know as well as I.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

R.W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

Lieut.Colonel A.H. Luehman, G.S.C., U.S.A.,
Headquarters, Third Air Force,
Office of the Commanding General,
Tampa, Florida.

0389

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

February 9, 1943

Dear Paul:

I was very pleased to hear from you and to note that your prospects of getting over to North Africa seem good. I was pleased to note that our friend Hammond is enroute. I trust that he will enjoy his new assignment.

Things are going along at the War College about the same as last year with the vital exception, that the weather being uniformly bad, we have little to do except to work. No more swimming at Bailey's beach - no more performances at the George Warren's or the Grosvenor's.

The present class is very hard working and both the Command and Prep Staff Classes may be found here every afternoon trying to absorb roughly what you fellows absorbed heretofore. Some of your old friends around here are still here, but others, like the Dominguesses, have gone. However, things are pleasant enough for the little while that we have available for play.

I was glad to note that you had seen Charlie Baker and that he was in good fettle, but I was disappointed about his wife. It is too bad as she is a very nice person indeed. If you see her tell her to get better as soon as possible. I was delighted to hear that your Virginia had been down there with you. I like her very much indeed, as you well know, and I also like the picture that I saw of her and her chien in the Sunday paper.

Some of your old friends are in this new Class. Among them are Crawford Hill, George Ryan, Frank Bon, Gus Healy, Leonard Cushing and Jimmy Van Alen.

Here's a new story you can tell your friends - An English boy was visiting an American boy on Long Island. The mother of the American boy heard her eleven year old son asking the English boy a question as follows: "Winston, why don't you British allow Wally to be Queen?" To this, the English boy replied "Jack, I will tell you. You know Wally was first married to Mr. Spencer and she had no children by that marriage - then she married Mr. Simpson and she had no children by that marriage, therefore, we British felt that we simply could not have a woman as Queen who suffered from infantile paralysis.

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Why don't you go down to the 1925 "P" Street Club? Mary Cummings, the secretary, is quite a good friend of mine, perhaps she will look out for you.

Best regards, as always, your old friend,

Lieutenant Paul Abbott, USNR,
Office of Naval Intelligence,
Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

0391

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

February 16, 1943

Dear Admiral:

I thought that I would write you a letter today to let you know how things are coming here, as I know you are deeply interested in the College, and at the same time, to inquire as to your health as well as that of Mrs. Kalbfus.

In the first place, the College is going on very well indeed, which I suppose Admiral Pye, who is now in Washington, has told you. Everybody is working very hard and there is very little social activity, such as is noted around Newport in the summer. The net result of this, of course, is very favorable for the College as well as for the improvement of the students.

The students are a very fine hard-working, conscientious lot, of about the same quality over-all as the last class, in that they have nearly all of them been in the Service for some time and understand rather well what they are here to get.

The Staff is the same as before when you were here, with two exceptions. The first, which you well know about, is the absence of Captain Bastedo, who is now Naval Attache in London. The other is the absence of Commander Cruzen; who is somewhere in the Pacific. Captain Bastedo was replaced by Captain Thompson, who used to be on Admiral Bloch's Staff, I think, and he is a fine fellow. Commander Cruzen has been replaced by Commander Tallman, who is gradually breaking-in to the hang of things as an instructor. He is going through exactly the same mental process as all former student officers go through when they join the Staff. This process involves a readjustment concerning their appreciation of their own knowledge. They find to their astonishment that they don't know very much after all. Naturally, in my mind, a cruise on the Staff should be made an essential for the better qualified officers.

The course in the College is just about the same as that when you were here for both Classes, with the exception that the Preparatory Staff Class to a considerable degree, and the Command Class to a lesser degree, have been given more intensive work on weapons than heretofore.

There is very little gossip in town. One doesn't get around as much now as one did before tire rationing, so there

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is little opportunity for idle tongues to wag needlessly or destructively. However, this gossip is in fact the truth, and I suppose you know about it already. Tommy and Estelle Ragan are being divorced. I asked Estelle about it and told her I could not believe it. She said, however, that it was so; that she and Tommy had planned on this for some time, but did not want to do it until their child was old enough to understand. May and Gordon Douglas are also being divorced, but this isn't any surprise. Teddy Grinnell is sick at home and has been out of circulation at least one month, but is, I understand, improving. Roderick Terry has also been out of circulation for some months and is likewise on the mend. Your former Public Relations Officer, George Hawkins, has just returned from the hospital, where he was out with German measles.

The weather here has been exceedingly cold and today is about two below zero. Yesterday, it was about fifteen below zero. The result of all of this is that a lot of people are pretty cold, and my apartment has not been higher than fifty degrees for two days. The College, however, is quite comfortably warm, so that I am under no handicap. Narragansett Bay is gradually forming with ice and the fingers of the harbor between Coasters' Island, the mainland, and the causeway are all frozen over. I feel sure, therefore, that you are thankful that you are where you are for the present.

If you wish a laugh, here is a story which I picked up - it isn't bad at all:

An English boy was visiting an American boy on Long Island. The mother of the American boy heard her eleven year old son asking the English boy a question as follows: "Winston, why don't you British allow Wally to be Queen?" To this the English boy replied "Jack, I will tell you. You know Wally was first married to Mr. Spencer and she had no children by that marriage; then she married Mr. Simpson and she had no children by that marriage, therefore, we British felt that we simply could not have a woman for Queen who had suffered from infantile paralysis."

Some of the members of the Staff are being ordered to address several important Naval Units in New York over the next few weeks, and so far, I am designated to give three and possibly four addresses. It should be interesting provided it doesn't overrun.

Outside of the above, there is nothing new to report excepting this, that I still hear nothing of any prospects of sea duty. I have wanted to mention the matter

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to Admiral Pye, but I felt that I shouldn't do so at the present moment, as the College Class is just getting dug in and so is the Admiral.

Best regards to you, as always, and best regards also to my friends on the General Board.

If I can do anything for you up here, I hope you won't fail to use me.

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. Bates.

Admiral E.C. Kalbfus, U.S.N.,
The General Board,
Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

0394

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

February 24, 1943

Dear Admiral:

I received your two letters and naturally the matter to which you referred is, so far as I am concerned, dead.

I can't imagine what the parties concerned can be thinking of when they wonder how any one could be interested in what they do. Certainly I found out because I asked one of them -- and as I told you before, she was quite frank in expressing her views and I feel certain that she even went so far as to say "Don't you think that we made a pretty good bluff?" Who is responsible for the breakup, I do not know and it is possible that the remark quoted above, as well as other remarks which at least one of them have made, may be purely camouflage. Sometimes our disappointment is covered by an air of braggadocio, and it is quite possible that such a condition exists here.

I cannot blame you for your interest and if I were they, I would feel quite badly if I felt that one who had been so important to me, both professionally and socially, had forgotten me completely. Your interest in their affairs was, I think, a very friendly gesture. I personally know that you have always been very fond of them and I think I would understand, but she for some reason seems to be showing what one might term "feminine instability."

My trip was very successful, and my addresses at the Orientation School at Columbia and at the Intelligence School were both very well received. In fact, both places have told me that mine had been the best address delivered throughout the course. I feel that if I am becoming somewhat successful, it is in a great part due to you, for it is you who put me on the Staff here, and it is you who saw to it that I got some coaching from such an eminent voice man as Dr. Smith. For all of that, I am grateful.

While in New York, I went to the Navy Yard and looked over those big ships there. They are fine commands and will, no doubt, prove themselves ere many moons have passed. The more I think of them, the more satisfied I

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- 2 -

am that the opinion which we registered almost two years ago on the subject of battleships and carriers, has been amply sustained. Our analyses up here also on those other three questions, which had been submitted for our attention and effort, were evidently likewise very correct. I don't blame you for taking a deep pride in your College when the present proves that the ideas of the past several years were sound. I also know that Admiral Pye thoroughly believes in the need for the exercise of mental power throughout the Navy, and in that regard, he thoroughly supports everything that you have said and done.

The weather has moderated very markedly and has now gone in one week from 18 below zero to about 50 degrees above it. However, for some extraordinary reason, the number of War College officers sick in the hospital is practically zero, so you can see that the weather conditions were not quite as bad as the great change in temperature would indicate.

Once again, may I repeat that in so far as I am concerned, the matter referred to is dead.

Please give my warmest regards to Mrs. Kalbfus, and I hope that you will see fit to reserve a little for yourself.

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

Admiral E.C. Kalbfus, U.S.N.,
The General Board,
Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

0396

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

February 25, 1943

Dear Eduardo:

I can't begin to tell you with what satisfaction I received your note of February 19, which indicated that you were here again in the "Land of the brave and the home of the free." Your duty in Belem was highly interesting, but always physically enervating, however, I know that whatever you did there was exceptionally well done in accordance with Breed tradition - by that, of course, I refer to your family and not to any particular breeding proclivities which you may have shown while in Brazil.

I will check and inform you as to whether we want anything from Brazil. The chances are that we do not, excepting a broad picture as to the Brazilian setup and that would well be handled by an up to date Brazilian monograph.

I hear nothing from Mariad, nor have I heard anything from her since she threatened me. About one month before she was married, she wrote me and said that if I did not answer her letters, she hoped I would be sorry as she would take some other action. I did not answer her letters so she married Mr. Hay. Evidently you or I were her first choice, and as she knew you were out because you were in Brazil, she tried to put her hooks into me and failing in that, grabbed Mr. Hay. I like her as Mrs. Hay very much, but I have doubts whether I should have approved of her as Mrs. Breed, and evidently I disapprove of her as Mrs. "B". I could have liked Mariad very much indeed, but her brandy drinking in the morning had me down. I was glad to see that her son is doing well in the Army. I admire him starting as a private and I am gratified to note that he has reached a sergeancy today. Also, as you know, he is married and it may take him away from the family bottle.

Mariad was sorrowful at him going into the Army, but she should be glad that the Army will make a success of him.

I have been ashore myself now two and one half years, and by next July will have completed three years. Evidently my work at the College has met with great favor

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by the High Command of the educational phase of the Navy, because I have been told by Admiral Kalbfus, now on duty in Washington, that I was here at his own request. However, Admiral Pye tells me that the Department say that I cannot stay here any more but am to go to sea in June. Naturally this is all to my liking, as I have endeavored to go to sea for the past year, but to no avail. I am awfully fond of the War College - I believe thoroughly in everything that it stands for - and I believe the war will only be won when our material and physical resources are melded together by the use of efficient mental power. As Captain Zacharias says "Would you care to go into battle blindfolded?" The answer to that is simple and yet we have been doing it every day. There is no doubt that Admiral King and Admiral Jacobs are thoroughly cognizant of this, and it is for that reason that the War College has been kept open, whereas in previous wars, it was always closed. Thank God that we have at the head of our Navy such eminent men as these.

I hope that when you write to your mother that you will give her my best regards and tell her that she always has a devoted friend and admirer in me. She is a swell girl.

Thanks very much for your note and let's hear from you "pronto".

As ever, your old friend,

Lieut.Comdr. Edward Breed, USNR,
Room 3835, Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

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AMERICAN RED CROSS

NORTH ATLANTIC AREA

300 FOURTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

February 25, 1943

Captain Richard Bates
War College
Newport, Rhode Island

Concerning: Mrs. Caroline Ryan Hotchkiss
28 East 63rd Street
New York City

Dear Sir:

(For assignment overseas)

The Personnel Service of the American Red Cross North Atlantic Area wishes to obtain information about the person mentioned above. Your evaluation will be most helpful.

Since the application must be held pending the return of the references, we should greatly appreciate a reply at your earliest convenience. We are indeed grateful for your cooperation.

Yours very truly,

(Mrs.) Mary N. McClees
Personnel Correspondent

For Dorothy V. Hall
Director of Personnel

MNM/

0399

Very personable, and altogether charming. Quite beautiful and known among her friends here in Newport as "gorgeous."

None known of my own personal knowledge. However, I do know and this I knew at the time thru doctors and nurses at the Naval Hospital here, that she performed the duties of nurses' aid capably, thoroughly, understandingly, sympathetically, and for long hours.

I would say that her general intelligence is high. She belongs to the Thomas Fortune Ryan family - is I think, a granddaughter - and has evidently inherited some of the qualities which made that man successful in a business way.

On this subject I am unable to comment, but I believe that she has considerable ability in handling her own estate which is rumored to be of moderate proportions.

As indicated in paragraph B above, she is very industrious indeed - at least in something which she loves to do, i.e. nursing.

I would judge that her judgement was equal to the average of the women of her own social class.

Her relationship with co-workers is very friendly. I personally know that she was very much liked by her associates at the Naval Hospital where she worked for some time and I further know that she went out of her way to be nice to them. She told me that she wanted to help them forget their loneliness.

0400

No, I do not. I feel that she can and will do well in whatever given to do. She has been very anxious to get into work somewhere to serve the Flag and has hoped that that somewhere would be overseas. Actually she is filled with unrest and needs some sort of anchor. I believe that the Red Cross work would provide that to the mutual advantage of both.

Yes, thoroughly.

One and one half
years.

March 1, 1943

R.W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.Navy.

0401

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

March 5, 1943

Dear Bobby:

I was very pleased to receive your letter relative to your commission as an Ensign in the Naval Reserve Force. From what I know of you, I think your advancement was fully merited, and I know that you will lend distinction to it and to your own name as opportunity offers. I don't know who was responsible for your commission. It is true that I took considerable interest in it, and possibly was quite helpful, but in the end, no one can do anything for any one who fails to measure up to the high standard demanded. In the end, therefore, the only person to be really thanked for your commission, is yourself, for if you didn't have what it took, you wouldn't have got there.

I am glad to see that they are still keeping you in gunnery, and I am glad to see further that you got yourself in the type of boats and ordnance equipment with which you are quite familiar. I would say that you are smart to keep in the work you love and do so well.

You will be interested to know that I see your father on occasions and he always looks very well indeed. I would say that your advancement has lifted some sort of load off his shoulders and he has dropped several years in appearance. Of course, this may not be the reason that he looks so well, it may be because of the nice people around the Reading Room like me, but I am really too modest to say so.

Take care of yourself and stick close to the job. In the end, you will find yourself going right up the ladder.

Best wishes, as ever, your old friend,

R.W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

Ensign Robert M. Phelps, USNR,
Submarine Chaser Training Center,
Miami, Florida.

0402

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

March 5, 1943

Dear Bob:

I was very pleased to receive your letter relative to the duty to which you are experiencing. I know that it is stiff and for that reason I enjoyed your letter. You showed no signs of grouching over the difficulties there, and you have evidently placed your usual good humor in the right place. You may envy some one who has gone to a carrier, but it is quite possible that the fellow on the carrier may envy you. It is all a matter of relative position.

Things are going on about the same here in Newport, but there is not so much, shall we say, fun, as there was last summer. People are more serious, social life is less dazzling, rationing is gradually taking command of everything, but there still is plenty of soap and water. All of this means that it doesn't make much difference where you are, the war will get to you there, and every one is taking it in full stride so that victory may be assured.

I have not seen your old friend Pange recently, so that I imagine she is out of town. I see George and Kay Warren about every day and we often talk of you. George is a habitue of the Reading Room, and as I frequent it possibly more than I should, I see him as often as he sees me. Jimmy Altunes is still around, Bill White, Gus White, Schuyler Parsons and others.

I think that wherever you are, you couldn't have had any colder weather than we have had here. Last week the temperature was as low as 20 degrees below zero, and as I don't have any long ones and had to run around in my shorts, I often wondered if I would have a soprano voice by morning.

What is going on here is quite similar as to what went on when you were here, but naturally I don't wish to discuss that in this letter.

I have delivered three lectures in the "big city" recently, and have seen some of your friends while there.

0403

I am going down tomorrow to deliver another lecture and I hope to call up Virginia Abbott. I will tell her I heard from you. As a matter of interest, Paul and Hammond have both gone where you say you would like to go, and I think that their existence will be as rugged as yours, but also much warmer. Where they both are, the language spoken is the same as that which Paul spoke in the last war. You will have to guess where it is.

I also expect to see our old friend Caroline who is now planning to go overseas with the Red Cross. She has asked my help and I believe that I have succeeded in getting her in; that is, if she passes the physical tests. The "big city" isn't the same any more because of the black-outs and I don't have too much fun there, although I was very pleased to see old friends.

There is nothing new to report excepting this - I am going to go to sea, but when or where, I do not know, and if I did know, I couldn't say it in this letter.

Did you hear the story of the cattleman who was arrested for selling the heads and tails of his slaughtered steers to sausage manufacturers? You didn't? Well, apparently, they got him before the judge and he was queried as to why he did this. The cattleman replied "I only wanted to make both ends meet (meat)."

With best regards to you, and congratulations on your assignment to duty, I am, your old friend,

Lieut.Comdr. Robert E. Jennings, U.S.N.R.,
Fleet Air Wing Four,
c/o Postmaster,
Seattle, Washington.

0404

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

March 10, 1943

Dear Old Paul:

Every night almost these days, I hear broadcasts of news from almost everywhere, and they invariably indicate that Southern England, and very often London, has been bombed. So, naturally, at these times, my thoughts revert to you and I can't help smiling at what a change in your life your new station has brought. I can't say that I think you enjoy being bombed, but on the other hand, I do know that you wanted to be on an action front and you evidently have succeeded. My earnest wish, of course, is that your connection with these bombings will be always that of the on-looker, and that none of them will come near enough to you to cause discomfort.

Things are going on about the same here. Our new class is an excellent one, is almost as large as the preceding class, and consists of a very hard-working and generally understanding group of officers in both classes. There is plenty of labor for the Staff and all of us, therefore, are normally quite busy. In addition to the duties here in the College, some of us have been lecturing in New York before certain military units. So far, I have given three lectures there, with, I think, more to follow.

I have been advised by the Admiral that the Department has informed him that I am soon to go to sea, but where or in what job, I have no way of knowing now. Naturally, I am greatly pleased that such is to be my good fortune, for I began to wonder whether (1) I was no good and the Department did not desire to give me a sea command, or (2) I was very good and could not be spared from the College. My mental attitude was favoring the first one of these ideas as the more probable, when I received a letter from Admiral Kalbfus indicating that the second one was the more probable. Anyway, whatever the reason for my retention here so long in war time, it no longer obtains, and I expect to be at sea in about three months.

I have not seen or heard of your beloved Helen, and I regret the fact very much. She came up here to close up your house and remained about two days, but I knew nothing about it until the evening of the second day, when Ann McCleary, who was dining with me at Gus White's, said that

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Helen was up and was to go back in the morning. I wanted to go over to see her but Ann said "Don't do it, she will be over here." So I waited at Gus' and no Helen. She left the next morning, so you can see that I am a little mad at her. I am as fond of her as my own hand, as you perhaps well know, and I had hoped that she would greet me when she returned.

I do hope that you are thoroughly enjoying your new duty. It should be highly interesting, to say nothing of being highly important, and had I not the prospect of going to sea, I should have liked nothing better than to be there with you. I remember that you were quite a student here in the College, and I have no doubt that you will have plenty of opportunity to use it all over there. The combination of Stark, Kirk and Bastedo should be a devastating one.

When I was down in New York on one of my lecture tours, I ran into a Mrs. Rodman Wanamaker, whose husband is now serving somewhere in the Pacific, but not Southwest Pacific, and who has recently been made a Commander in the Naval Reserve. I suppose that you know him, and perhaps you know his wife, Bea, who is certainly a perfectly swell person, and a charming blonde. She told me that Rodman was very anxious to get ordered to duty in London, as he is very well known over there and feels that he could be of great assistance because of this fact. I understand that he was over there for a few months a couple of years ago. I don't know whether you have any choice in the matter and if you have a choice, whether you would be willing to ask for him. Personally, I know little of him excepting that every one seems to think him a very nice capable fellow.

There is no use spreading gossip, but I suppose that you know that Tommy Ragan and his charming Estelle have reached the parting of the ways. Every one is thoroughly disappointed about it because both of them seemed so happy together. However, as the saying goes "you can never tell from where you sit how the picture is going to look." So here the picture evidently was quite different from what a superficial glance seemed to indicate.

Did you hear what happened to the cattleman in Wyoming? Evidently, owing to the stringent regulations in regard to slaughtering cattle, certain subterfuges are resorted to by unscrupulous people. This cattleman was arrested for selling the heads and the tails of his slaughtered cattle to the sausage manufacturer. The judge asked him why he did such a thing, and the cattleman replied "Judge, I did it to make both ends meet (meat)."

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All of your old friends around here I know wish to be remembered to you. As a matter of fact, I see more of Montague now than I used to because, now that you have gone, he is horning in on my censored envelops. He grabbed one only this morning which I had received from the Aleutians.

Best regards, old friend, let me hear from you soon. Please remember me most kindly to any one that I may know there, but in particular, to Alan Kirk, for whom I have always had deep affection.

As ever,

Sincerely,

Captain Paul H. Bastedo, U.S.N.,
Naval Attache, American Embassy,
London, England.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

March 12, 1943

My dear Miss Fellows:

I noted with extreme interest in last night's local Daily News that a bill had been introduced in the Rhode Island State Legislature for the purpose of establishing Day Nurseries in this State. As this idea, so far as I know, has been advanced by you for quite a long time, it would appear that you deserve the credit for the awakened public opinion which resulted in this bill.

May I extend to you my personal gratification at this successful culmination of your wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

Miss Alice Fellows,
Red Cross Psychiatric Unit,
Naval Training Station,
Newport, R.I.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

March 18, 1943

My dear Captain Taggart:

I am in receipt of your letter of March 15th relative to the interest you have in the work of the Naval War College which was caused by listening to the lectures by staff members of this College at the Advanced Naval Intelligence School in New York.

It has been the custom of the Army in past years to send officers to the War College of the rank of Major and above. These officers were invariably assigned to what is now called the Command Class. In years before the war, it was known as the Senior Class.

To date no Army officers are in the Preparatory Staff Class although there are a number of Marine officers there. How Army officers can obtain assignment to such a class is beyond the province of this College and so far as I have been able to ascertain no one here knows exactly what steps are used by the Army in designating officers to take any course here.

You seem to be located at the headquarters of the Army Air Forces and therefore at the fount of all knowledge concerning the Army Air. I would suggest, therefore, that you pursue your subject through the headquarters in Washington and I have no doubt that you will find the answer yourself.

It was nice to know that the lectures given by the War College staff at the Intelligence School at New York were so appreciated by the students there. All the members of the staff here are, of course, most anxious to do all that they can to insure the success of the officers of your school and we considered it a privilege to have the opportunity to address you.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates,
Captain, U.S.N.

Captain Joseph H. Taggart, A.C., U.S. Army
University Club
Washington, D. C.

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